

Remarks

Claims 1-10, 12-19 and 21-24 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 25 and 26 are newly added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for indicating claims 12, 14-19, 23 and 24 as allowed, and claim 5 as allowable.

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barker et al. (USP 6,866,541) ("Barker"). Claims 1, 13, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knickerbocker (USP 4,150,867). These rejections are traversed for the reasons set forth hereinafter.

Claim 1 recites a patch panel system having, among other things, a patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple connector receiving sections joined to form an N-sided portion of a non-closed polygon where N is greater than two. Connector ports are provided on at least two adjacent sections of the first connectivity interface.

Barker does not describe a patch panel system as recited in claim 1. Barker does not describe multiple connector receiving sections joined to one another. Rather, Barker describes a patch panel 100 having a central section 110 receiving cable connectors within openings 120. The central section is formed from two panel sections angled outwardly in a V-shape, and a substantially flat separator portion 140 separating the two panel sections. Notably, Barker includes a separator portion 140 between the panel sections. Additionally, Barker does not describe connector ports provided on adjacent sections. As indicated above, Barker includes a separator portion 140 between the panel sections. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Barker.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, and 22 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2-4, 6-10, and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 2-4, 6-10, and 22 are likewise patentable over Barker.

Knickerbocker does not describe a patch panel system as recited in claim 1. Knickerbocker does not describe a patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple connector receiving sections joined to form an N-sided portion of a non-closed polygon as recited in claim 1. In contrast, Knickerbocker describes a tri-frame pedestal 60 used to support a plurality of terminal block and bracket assemblies 10. The pedestal 60 includes frame members 62, 64 which are secured to a central post 66 by radial arms 68. The frame members 62, 64 meet to form three corners. Vertical angle irons 72 extend between the three corners on frames 62, 64. Spaced apart horizontal support means 74 are coupled to the vertical angle irons 72. Notably, Knickerbocker's pedestal 60 does not define a patch panel having multiple connector receiving sections joined to form an N-sided portion of a non-closed polygon. Rather, Knickerbocker's pedestal 60 forms a closed, triangular polygon, wherein the frame members 62, 64 meet at three corners. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Barker.

Moreover, claim 13 recites a patch panel having, among other things, a body having a front wall and a back wall extending between opposed side walls. The front wall defines a first connectivity interface having multiple sections joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon. Knickerbocker does not describe any such structure. For similar reasons as described above with respect to claim 1, Knickerbocker does not describe a body having front and back walls extending between opposed side walls. Rather, Knickerbocker's pedestal 60 forms a closed, triangular polygon, wherein the frame members 62, 64 meet at three corners. Accordingly, claim 13 is patentable over Knickerbocker.

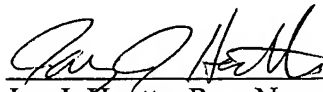
Claim 21 depends from independent claim 13. When the recitations of claim 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 13, claim 21 is likewise patentable over Knickerbocker.

Tuning to newly added claims 25 and 26, Applicants submit that the cited art does not describe the patch panel system and the patch panel, respectively, having multiple sections joined at edges. Accordingly, claims 25 and 26 are submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Should anything remain in order to place

the present application in condition for allowance, the examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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